

ClaimsWhat is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method of treating or preventing the onset of diabetic retinopathy (DR) in a patient  
2 comprising administering somatostatin to said patient.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein said somatostatin is octreotide, lanreotide, vapreotide, MK 678,  
2 L-363-377, L-797,591, L-779,976, L-796-778, L-803,087, L-817,818, or combinations thereof.
3. A method of treating or preventing the onset of diabetic retinopathy in a patient comprising  
administering somatostatin to said patient and co-administering a thyroid-related substance.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein said somatostatin is octreotide, lanreotide, vapreotide, MK 678,  
L-363-377, L-797,591, L-779,976, L-796-778, L-803,087, L-817,818, or combinations thereof.
5. The method of claim 3, wherein said thyroid related substance is thyroid hormone, thyroxine,  
thyrotropin, thyroid stimulating hormone, or analogues or, pharmaceutically acceptable salts or  
derivatives thereof that have similar biological functionality or effect in the body
- 1 6. A composition useful for treating or preventing the onset of DR comprising a mixture of  
2 somatostatin and a thyroid-related substance.
- 1 7. A kit comprising at least one container having somatostatin and a thyroid-related substance  
2 disposed therein.
- 1 8. The kit of claim 7 further comprising a syringe for administration of the somatostatin and  
2 thyroid-related substance.

1 9. The kit of claim 8 wherein at least one container is one or more syringes having somatostatin and  
2 thyroid-related substance disposed in either one syringe as a mixture or in separate syringes.

10. The kit of claim 7 wherein the somatostatin and thyroid-related substance is in a form suitable  
for oral administration.

1 11. A method of treating or preventing the onset of DR comprising administering somatostatin  
2 and co-administering a thyroid-related substance, wherein the dosage of said somatostatin and said  
3 thyroid-related substance is of an amount such that any synergistic effect of said administering or  
4 co-administering is optimized.

1 12. An article of manufacture comprising somatostatin and thyroid-related substance.

1 13. The article of manufacture of claim 12 in the form of a solid or liquid.

14. A method of treating or preventing the onset of diabetic retinopathy comprising assaying a  
group of somatostatin analogues for their ability to bind to a sstr2 somatostatin receptor;  
selecting one or more analogues having high affinity to said sstr2 somatostatin receptor; and  
administering said one or more selected analogues to a patient in need thereof.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein said high affinity comprises a  $K_i$  value in nanomoles of about  
2 2 or less.

1 16. The method of claim 14 further comprising the co-administration of a thyroid-related  
2 substance in patients who do not favorably respond to administration of said one or more  
3 somatostatin analogues alone.

1 17. A method of treating or preventing DR in a patient comprising identifying whether said patient  
2 is susceptible to developing DR; administering somatostatin to said individual; and co-  
3 administering a thyroid related substance.

- 1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein said thyroid related substance is delivered in an amount of  
2 100-200  $\mu\text{g}$  a day.